

# Harbor Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers, South Haven City Hall



City of South Haven

### 1. Call to Order

Present: Pyle, Reineck, Silverman, Stephens, Strong, Sullivan, Arnold  
Absent: None

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stephens, second by Strong to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes:     **April 15, 2014 Regular Meeting**   **April 15, 2014 Workshop**

Stephens remarked that she was unable to attend the last meeting but questioned the issue of Coast Guard certification and whether there are federal codes that the city must ensure that the owner comply with. Strong noted that the city attorney looked into that and came up with the conclusion that there is no such requirement. Discussion ensued regarding city liability if there were issues, with Sullivan pointing out that there are things the building code would not consider, such as buoyancy. It was noted that both the owner of the barge and the zoning administrator contacted the Coast Guard and were told they do not inspect and certify barges.

Motion by Strong, second by Sullivan to approve the April 15, 2014 regular meeting minutes and the April 15, 2014 workshop minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### 4. Interested Citizens in the Audience Will be Heard on Items Not on the Agenda

None at this time.

### 5. Marina Reports

May 20, 2014  
Harbor Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes

VandenBosch mentioned that approval of the budget amendment in a subsequent item is presumed and reviewed the reports as presented with the budget amendments.

VandenBosch noted that we are seeing some issues with the transient marina, partly due to the cold weather and partly due to the new vendor doing the state reservations. That system was down for about a week, making it impossible for boaters to go online and make reservations.

Sullivan inquired whether the DDA (Downtown Development Association) funding will be available again to which VandenBosch responded that he believes so.

VandenBosch noted that Lake Michigan levels today were about one (1) foot over the datum.

## **6. Fireboat Discussion**

VandenBosch noted that he had invited Tony Marsala, the Fire Marshal, to be here to talk about this item and voiced disappointment that Marsala is not here. Silverman suggested skipping over this item in case Marsala is just late.

## **7. Weather Buoy Grant**

VandenBosch noted that LimnoTech will be accepting the grant and mailing letters to the donors requesting payment. Referred to the "Annual Cost Commitments (Five Years)" table in the packet which shows which groups have already pledged toward the maintenance expenses. VandenBosch noted that the Steelheaders have pledged \$5,000 for the temperature string and smaller donations have been promised from the Kiwanis and the Chamber of Commerce. VandenBosch noted, "If we get enough donors we may get (the buoy) in the water this year."

Silverman expressed his thanks to the Steelheaders for getting the grant and to Tim Stegeman for all of his work.

## **8. Soundings**

VandenBosch noted that we have a mound forming in the federal channel. Staff had Abonmarche look at the build-up; noted that the build-up started before the dredgers started as well as pointing out that major scouring is also happening. Trying to rule out things that might be causing this; have not yet ruled out water main or sewer main breaks. That is not the only potential source. The city has asked Abonmarche to put together a bid for soundings so we can see what is happening. That bid will be passed to Public Works as they need to know what is going on near the bridge, with the bridge repair project coming up this fall. VandenBosch estimates that the mound is currently six (6) to seven (7) feet deep at present.

Discussion ensued regarding various methods that could be used to indicate whether there is a water main break or a sewer break.

VandenBosch explained the diagrams and soundings exhibits included in the packet.

May 20, 2014  
Harbor Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes

Silverman asked if the mound forming has something to do with the river going from a narrower area to a wider one; VandenBosch said that is a condition that has existed for many years but needs to be looked into.

In response to a question from Silverman regarding whether there is a storm outlet somewhere near there, Strong said there is, and the closest owner to that outlet has had issues with sedimentation in his slip for the past couple of years. VandenBosch noted that Abonmarche did not feel there was enough storm water coming in to create that mound. Pyle pointed out that the city put substantial amounts of snow at the Black River Park launch as well as dredging spoils so the parameters have changed from previous years. VandenBosch noted some theories regarding the dredging. Silverman thinks underwater cameras could be used to do a time study on that drain to see how much debris is coming through and where it is going. VandenBosch said the foundation of the bridge is going to be the main concern for Public Works, and because of the scouring we would like to expand that and based on that, maybe learn a little more about why this is happening.

Silverman referred again to the blue/red chart, where the + (plus) means the dirt is deeper and the – (minus) means shallower and questioned whether it a one-year time span is indicated. VandenBosch responded that it shows the difference from 2013 to 2014.

## **9. Budget Amendment**

VandenBosch noted that budget amendments are approved by City Council, and it is quite a substantial amount, so the action item listed here is a recommendation to City Council. VandenBosch noted the items, including maintenance and dredging, that were not budgeted for and noted that this was an error on the part of staff.

VandenBosch enumerated the various marina marketing endeavors being implemented noting that some of these marketing efforts were not in a budget so had to be added. Explained that staff thought that harbor dredging would be completed in the previous fiscal year, but not all of it was paid for, so it has to be added to the budget. VandenBosch noted that there is one page in the packet that is old information and corrected the figures to update the board.

VandenBosch said he mentioned several times that we were going to dredge Black River Park, but the contract for the dredger did not include Black River Park, so a contract adjustment is going to be requested. The work was done under a fairly good bid price from the contractor. VandenBosch pointed out some of the key budget figures.

Motion by Silverman to recommend the budget amendment to City Council based on the information provided with the exception of page 33 of the agenda packet. Second by Strong.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Sullivan requested information on where the money is coming from. VandenBosch said the Black River Park amount is based on the volume removed from the Black River Park Marina, while the other funds were pulled from the only other two sources.

May 20, 2014  
Harbor Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes

VandenBosch noted that the impact on the marina fund is very heavy and will affect maintenance on our marinas if we have some bad years. "I'm not sure we could do this again in five years and still maintain our marinas."

### **Member and Staff Comments**

Strong: Glad summer is here.

Silverman: Would like to see the issue of the surge in the South Marina back on the agenda. Wondered whether any tests were ever done. Since the construction of the South Marina twenty (20) years ago, there is a lot more information available in the way of attenuators. If we could reduce the surge in the South Marina it would be a real asset and remove the only detriment in the South Side Marina.

VandenBosch said we requested that Abonmarche provide suggestions and they suggested a rip-rap attenuation that would take away valuable park space on one side of the river and on the other side of the river there is not space to do that. VandenBosch said it is rather difficult to determine what works; staff has looked at it and it is an issue. There is also an issue on the far end of the North Marina making those slips difficult to rent.

Pyle noted that the water levels have been so low that the wave breakers on the piers themselves have not been able to do their job, but they have been working with the higher levels we have at present. It was noted that some were not aware that there were wave attenuators built into the piers.

Motion by Silverman, second by Stephens to table discussion on the fire boat since Marsala had not arrived.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Pyle: "When will the gate be manned at Black River Park?" VandenBosch updated the board. Pyle will try to speak with Norm.

Sullivan: Brought up sediment traps, given the constraints of the budget, and wondered if there is anything that can be done to prevent sediment from getting there, whether it is working with the county or soil conservation people.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Strong, second by Pyle to adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom  
Recording Secretary